

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 74-128.

The following claims are now pending in the present application:

1. (Previously presented) An automated pharmaceutical dispensing system comprising means for selecting and retrieving a pharmaceutical pack, said means being arranged to deliver said pack to a labelling station, wherein said labelling station comprises a label printer arranged to print a label comprising information specific to a patient for whom said pharmaceutical pack is intended, and means for applying said label to said pack; the system further comprising means for delivering said pack from the labelling station so as to be accessible to a user, wherein the means for applying the label is adapted to alter the way in which the label is applied depending upon the dimensions of the pack to be labelled.

2-73. (Cancelled)

74. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1 arranged such that the labelling station applies the label in an orientation relative to the pack which is dependent upon at least one dimension of the pack.

75. (New) A system as claimed in claim 74 wherein the labelling station is arranged to orient the pack and label applicator appropriately.

76. (New) A system as claimed in claim 75 wherein the label applicator is arranged to adjust its orientation.

77. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the labelling station is adapted to receive an instruction as to how the label is to be applied.

78. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the label applicator is arranged to apply the label at a predetermined position on the pack, the position being variable from one pack type to another.

79. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1 arranged to pass information to the labelling station to enable the label applicator to apply the label in the predetermined position.

80. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1 arranged to pass label positioning information directly to the labelling station or label applicator.

81. (New) A system as claimed in claim 1 arranged to apply a label of common size to all packs.

82. (New) A labelling station for applying a label to any of a plurality of different packs comprising means for determining at least one dimension of a pack to be labelled and means for applying a label to a pack in an orientation dependent upon said determined dimension.

83. (New) A labelling station as claimed in claim 82 wherein the label applicator is configured to be able to apply said label onto said pack in at least two discrete planes.

84. (New) A computer software product for enabling the automatic labelling of a pharmaceutical pack with patient-specific information, comprising means for processing a plurality of orders, each order comprising at least one piece of patient-specific information and a required drug, means for accessing a database referenced to said required drug for determining at least one dimension of a pack in which the drug is packaged, means for determining how to apply a label to said pack dependent on said pack dimension and means for giving instructions to a labelling station, said instructions including said patient-specific information and an instruction for determining how a label applicator is to apply a label to a pack.

85. (New) A software product as claimed in claim 84 wherein said instructions for determining how the label is to be applied comprise a code for determining an orientation in which the label is to be applied.

86. (New) A system for executing a computer software product as claimed in claim 84 comprising an existing pharmacy information technology system comprising a patient database, said information technology system generating a prescription request; a robot arm subsystem including an inventory database recording the position, size and entry date of each pharmaceutical pack as well as controlling movement of the robot arm; and a labelling subsystem which sits between said information technology system and said robot arm subsystem and controls the printing and application of labels.

87. (New) Software for execution on a server or plurality of servers, comprising means for receiving an order, said order comprising at least one piece of patient-specific information and a required drug, means for interrogating a database referenced to said required drug and for receiving therefrom a determination relating to at least one dimension of a pack in which the drug is packaged, and means for giving instructions to a labelling station, said instructions including said patient-specific information and information or instructions based on said pack dimension determination for determining how to apply a label to said pack.

88. (New) A computer software product adapted, when run on suitable data processing means, to receive a message indicating delivery of a pack to be labelled to a labelling station and to transmit a message to said labelling station for

applying a label to said pack such that said software is able to coordinate the delivery of said pack and the application of a particular label thereto.

89. (New) A method of operating an automated pharmaceutical dispensing system comprising selecting and retrieving a pharmaceutical pack, delivering said pack to a labelling station, printing a label comprising information specific to a patient for whom said pharmaceutical pack is intended, applying said label to said pack; and delivering said pack from the labelling station so as to be accessible to a user; further comprising altering the way in which the label is applied depending upon the dimensions of the pack being labelled.

90. (New) A method as claimed in claim 89 comprising the labelling station applying the label in an orientation relative to the pack which is dependent upon at least one dimension of the pack.

91. (New) A method as claimed in claim 89 comprising the labelling station orienting the pack and label applicator appropriately.

92. (New) A method as claimed in claim 91 comprising the label applicator adjusting its orientation.

93. (New) A method as claimed in claim 89 comprising the labelling station receiving an instruction as to how the label is to be applied.

94. (New) A method as claimed in claim 89 comprising the label applicator applying the label at a predetermined position on the pack, the position being variable from one pack type to another.

95. (New) A method as claimed in claim 94 comprising passing information to the labelling station to enable the label applicator to apply the label in the predetermined position.

96. (New) A method as claimed in claim 89 comprising applying a label of common size to all packs.

97. (New) A method of automatically labelling a pharmaceutical pack with patient-specific information, comprising processing a plurality of orders, each order comprising at least one piece of patient-specific information and a required drug, accessing a database referenced to said required drug for determining at least one dimension of a pack in which the drug is packaged, determining how to apply a label to said pack dependent on said pack dimension and giving instructions to a labelling station, said instructions including said patient-specific

information and an instruction for determining how a label applicator is to apply a label to a pack.

98. (New) An automated pharmaceutical dispensing system comprising:
a selecting and retrieving subsystem for selecting and retrieving a pharmaceutical pack, said selecting and retrieving subsystem being arranged to deliver said pack to a labelling station, said labelling station comprising:
a label printer arranged to print a label comprising information specific to a patient for whom said pharmaceutical pack is intended; and
a label applicator subsystem for applying said label to said pack;
the system further comprising a delivery subsystem for delivering said pack from the labelling station to a user-accessible point; wherein the label applicator subsystem is adapted to alter the way in which the label is applied depending upon a dimension of the pack to be labelled.

99. (New) A system as claimed in claim 98 arranged such that the labelling station applies the label in an orientation relative to the pack which is dependent upon at least one dimension of the pack.

100. (New) A system as claimed in claim 99 wherein the labelling station is arranged to orient the pack and label applicator appropriately.

101. (New) A system as claimed in claim 100 wherein the label applicator is arranged to adjust its own orientation.

102. (New) A system as claimed in claim 98 wherein the labelling station is adapted to receive an instruction as to how the label is to be applied.

103. (New) A system as claimed in claim 98 wherein the label applicator is arranged to apply the label at a predetermined position on the pack, the position being variable from one pack type to another.

104. (New) A system as claimed in claim 103 arranged to pass information to the labelling station to enable the label applicator to apply the label in the predetermined position.

105. (New) A system as claimed in claim 98 arranged to pass label positioning information directly to the labelling station.

106. (New) A system as claimed in claim 98 arranged to apply a label of common size to all packs.

107. (New) A stock retrieval and labelling system comprising:

a retrieval subsystem for retrieving an item of stock in accordance with an order therefor;

a label printer for printing a label for said item with information specific to said order;

a label applicator for applying said label to said item; and

a control subsystem in data communication with said retrieval subsystem and said label applicator subsystem, said control subsystem being arranged to coordinate retrieval of said item and application of said label thereto; wherein the label applicator is adapted to alter the way in which the label is applied depending upon a dimension of the pack to be labelled.

108. (New) A system as claimed in claim 107 arranged such that the label applicator applies the label in an orientation relative to the pack which is dependent upon at least one dimension of the pack.

109. (New) A system as claimed in claim 108 wherein the label applicator subsystem is arranged to orient the pack and label applicator relative to one another.

110. (New) A system as claimed in claim 109 wherein the label applicator is arranged to adjust its own orientation.

111. (New) A system as claimed in claim 107 wherein the labelling station is adapted to receive an instruction as to how the label is to be applied.

112. (New) A system as claimed in claim 107 wherein the label applicator is arranged to apply the label at a predetermined position on the pack, the position being variable from one pack type to another.

113. (New) A system as claimed in claim 112 arranged to pass information to the label applicator to enable it to apply the label in the predetermined position.

114. (New) A system as claimed in claim 107 arranged to pass label positioning information directly to the labelling station.

115. (New) A labelling station for applying a label to any of a plurality of different packs comprising a dimension determination subsystem for determining at least one dimension of a pack to be labelled and a label applicator subsystem for applying a label to a pack in an orientation dependent upon said determined dimension.

116. (New) A labelling station as claimed in claim 115 wherein the label applicator is configured to be able to apply said label onto said pack in at least two discrete planes.

117. (New) A computer software product for enabling automatic labelling of a pharmaceutical pack with patient-specific information, comprising logic for processing a plurality of orders, each order comprising at least one piece of patient-specific information and a required drug, logic for accessing a database referenced to said required drug for determining at least one dimension of a pack in which the drug is packaged, logic for determining how to apply a label to said pack dependent on said pack dimension and logic for giving instructions to a labelling station, said instructions including said patient-specific information and an instruction for determining how a label applicator is to apply a label to a pack.

118. (New) A software product as claimed in claim 117 wherein said instructions for determining how the label is to be applied comprise a code for determining an orientation in which the label is to be applied.

119. (New) A system for executing a computer software product as claimed in claim 117 comprising an existing pharmacy information technology system comprising a patient database, said information technology system generating a prescription request; a robot arm subsystem including an inventory database recording the position, size and entry date of each pharmaceutical pack as well as controlling movement of the robot arm; and a labelling subsystem which sits

between said information technology system and said robot arm subsystem and controls the printing and application of labels.

120. (New) Software for execution on a server or plurality of servers, comprising logic for receiving an order, said order comprising at least one piece of patient-specific information and a required drug, logic for interrogating a database referenced to said required drug and for receiving therefrom a determination relating to at least one dimension of a pack in which the drug is packaged, and logic for giving instructions to a labelling station, said instructions including said patient-specific information and information or instructions based on said pack dimension determination for determining how to apply a label to said pack.

121. (New) A method of operating an automated pharmaceutical dispensing system comprising:

selecting and retrieving a pharmaceutical pack;
delivering said pack to a labelling station, said labelling station comprising a label printer and a label applicator;
said label printer printing a label comprising information specific to a patient for whom said pharmaceutical pack is intended;
said label applicator applying said label to said pack; and

delivering said pack from the labelling station to a user-accessible point; further comprising the step of altering the way in which the label is applied by the label applicator depending upon a dimension of the pack being labelled.

122. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of the labelling station applying the label in an orientation relative to the pack which is dependent upon at least one dimension of the pack.

123. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of the labelling station orienting the pack and label applicator appropriately.

124. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of the label applicator adjusting its own orientation.

125. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of the labelling station receiving an instruction as to how the label is to be applied.

126. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of the label applicator applying the label at a predetermined position on the pack, the position being variable from one pack type to another.

127. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of passing information to the labelling station to enable the label applicator to apply the label in the predetermined position.

128. (New) A method as claimed in claim 121 comprising the step of applying a label of common size to all packs.